

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01683 261636Z
ACTION EUR-12

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PA-02 SP-02 AF-10 /037 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE CORK EXAMINER MAY 25, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE CORK EXAMINER
MAY 25, 1978 UNDER HEADING PAYING FOR HISTORY:

OF ALL THE 19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN COLONIAL POWERS,
BELGIUM'S RECORD WAS THE WORST. WHEN IT CYNICALLY
ABANDONED THE BELGIAN CONGO, THE RESULT WAS
DISASTER. SO THERE IS NO NEED FOR BELGIANS TO BE
FURIOUS THAT THEY HAVE LOST INFLUENCE IN WHAT IS
NOW CALLED ZAIRE TO THE FRENCH. THE BELGIANS DESERVE
NO INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

THE FRENCH, HOWEVER, ARE IN A VERY DUBIOUS POSITION.
THEY INSIST THEIR ONLY INTEREST IS IN PROTECTING
EUROPEAN LIVES AND THAT THEY WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS
THOSE ARE SAFE. YET THEY ARE ZEALOUSLY ATTEMPTING
TO DRIVE THE REBELS OUT OF ZAIRE AS IF THEY HAD A
GREATER CONCERN FOR EUROPEAN PROPERTY, OR FOR
BOLSTERING THE SHAKY REGIME OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

GROSS ATROCITIES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY THE REBELS,
REINFORCING POPULAR IDENTIFICATION OF BLACK
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AFRICANS WITH SAVAGERY. THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE
CAREER OF ROGER CASEMENT KNOW THAT THE RECENT HORRORS
PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE ALONGSIDE THOSE OF THE
FORMER BELGIAN ADMINISTRATION.

HISTORY CANNOT CONDONE LAST WEEK'S DEEDS. BUT IT
SHOULD HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THEM. KRENE

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